

Message Text

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FOR H

H PLEASE PASS TO CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, BU
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL

THE HONORABLE
DONALD J. MITCHELL
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 9 CONCERNING
THE STATUS OF THE BULGARIAN PASSPORT APPLICATIONS FOR
LOZAN SLAVKOV GEORGIEV AND HIS SON, SVETOSLAV LOZANOV
SLAVKOV, TO VISIT YOUR CONSTITUENT MR. SLAVKO KANCHEV.

WHEN WE TALKED TO MR. GEORGIEV IN MID-OCTOBER DURING
HIS VISIT TO THE EMBASSY TO COLLECT THE AUTHENTICATED
AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT, WE LEARNED THAT THIS CASE MAY BE
SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLICATED THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY BELIEVED.
IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING NOW THAT MR. GEORGIEV AND HIS
SON INTEND TO IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES AND NOT
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MERELY VISIT THEIR FATHER AND GRANDFATHER. ALSO,
MR. GEORGIEV IS DIVORCED AND HAS LEGAL CUSTODY OF HIS SON,
WHILE HIS FORMER WIFE HAS CUSTODY OF THEIR OTHER CHILDREN.
THUS, MR. GEORGIEV AND HIS SON REPRESENT A "FAMILY," AND
THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO SCRUTINIZE THEIR
TRAVEL REQUEST VERY CLOSELY, RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS VERY
POSSIBLE THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO BULGARIA.

THE EMBASSY HAS ON FILE AN APPROVED IMMIGRANT VISA PETITION FOR MR. GEORGIEV SUBMITTED ON HIS BEHALF BY HIS FATHER. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE EMBASSY MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE THAT OUR VISA DOCUMENTATION CONFORMS TO THE STATUS ("VISITOR" OR "IMMIGRANT") FOR WHICH THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTED TRAVEL APPROVAL. IN CERTAIN PAST CASES, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, WE HAVE ISSUED A PRO-FORMA B-2 (TOURIST) VISA, AND MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH INS FOR THE ENTRY OF THE BULGARIAN AS AN "IMMIGRANT". THE CASE OF MR. GEORGIEV AND HIS SON COULD REQUIRE SIMILAR PROCESSING.

ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THE DESIRE OF MR. AND MRS. KANCHEV TO HAVE THEIR SON AND GRANDSON WITH THEM IN THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND AT THIS TIME THAT THE EMBASSY MAKE AN INQUIRY OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THEIR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS. WHEN WE MET WITH MR. GEORGIEV IN OCTOBER, HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE EMBASSY ADVISED OF THE STATUS OF HIS APPLICATION. HE HAS NOT SINCE CALLED THE EMBASSY; THUS WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN HE MAY HAVE FILED HIS PASSPORT APPLICATION. NORMALLY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF SIX WEEKS TO REACH A DECISION ON A PASSPORT APPLICATION. DURING THE PERIOD OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE APPLICATION REVIEW THE BULGARIAN CITIZEN IS PROHIBITED FROM CONTACTING A FOREIGN EMBASSY ABOUT HIS VISA OR PASSPORT. IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS IN THIS CASE, WE BELIEVE A MEASURE OF CAUTION IS WARRANTED BEFORE THE EMBASSY MAKES A REPRESENTATION TO THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

MAY I ASSURE YOU THAT AS SOON AS THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY MR. GEORGIEV ON THE STATUS OF HIS PASSPORT APPLICATION, WE WILL ADVISE YOU IMMEDIATELY.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ON ME AGAIN IF YOUR CONSTITUENT OBTAINS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEARING ON THE STATUS OF HIS SON'S AND GRANDSON'S APPLICATIONS.

SINCERELY,

RAYMOND L. GARTHOFF
AMBASSADOR

DECONTROL ON RECEIPT.
GARTHOFF

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Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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